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WaterLine

A publication about Ontario's water and wastewater industry.

Contents

- Welcome Cliff Jones
- News
- Partnerships/Collaboration
- Green Energy Act
- Health Charities
- Disaster Relief

New wastewater regulations mean changes for Canadian municipalities

The federal government has unveiled strict new wastewater treatment rules aimed at improving the quality of the wastewater entering Canada's oceans, lakes and rivers. The announcement, made July 18 by Canada's Environment Minister, Peter Kent, will mean billions of dollars in infrastructure costs to municipalities throughout the country.

Under the new regulations, it will no longer be sufficient for municipalities to use only primary treatment, which involves the physical separation of suspended solids from wastewater using primary clarifiers. Instead, municipalities will be required to also perform secondary treatment, in which dissolved organic material is also removed.

"We want water that is clean, safe and plentiful for future generations of Canadians to enjoy," said Mr. Kent. "Through these regulations, we are addressing one of the largest sources of pollution in our waters. We've set the country's first national standards for sewage treatment. These standards will reduce the levels of harmful substances deposited to surface water from wastewater systems in Canada."

Kent estimates that approximately 75 per cent of Canadian municipalities are already in compliance with the new rules. The government did not disclose the names of the other 25 per cent (approximately 850 individual communities) that will need to upgrade to a minimum of secondary wastewater treatment.

The government also introduced timelines of up to 10, 20 and 30 years for municipalities to achieve compliance, depending on whether the specific facility is considered to be a high, medium or low risk to the environment.

A number of environmental groups are criticizing the government's timelines, suggesting they are not aggressive enough. However, at a July 18 news conference in Delta, B.C. Kent responded to environmental critics by saying these projects are simply too large to be moved along any faster.

The federal government estimates that municipalities will face capital and operating costs of approximately $5 billion to meet the new regulations. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), however, pegs the figure for capital costs alone at between $20 billion and $40 billion. The FCM is also calling on Ottawa to create a national funding program to help pay for the wastewater infrastructure upgrades. "Municipalities, who are responsible for more than 50% of Canada's public infrastructure but collect just eight cents of every tax dollar, cannot meet the country's wastewater infrastructure needs on their own while also maintaining and repairing our roads, bridges, transit systems and other infrastructure vital to our economy and quality of life," the FCM says. "The federal government must back up its new wastewater regulations with a funding plan that will protect both the environment and property taxpayers."

Of the 949 municipalities included in the government's data, 147 were in the low risk group while 403 were in the medium risk and 399 were in the high risk group.

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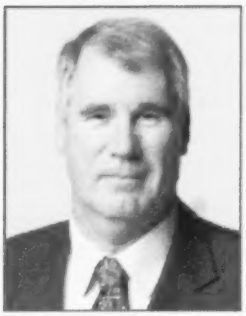

Welcome

A message from Cliff Jones, Vice President Sales and Marketing

As my first official order of business at OCWA, I'm pleased to introduce myself to our clients and industry friends via this fall issue of *WaterLine*.

Having worked within the industry for over 10 years, I've already had the great pleasure of meeting many of you through various conferences, events and work engagements. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many more of you in my new capacity here at OCWA and I look forward to sharing ideas and information that will be of benefit to all of us in this exciting – and ever-evolving – industry of ours.

It has been a busy few months here at OCWA and within the water and wastewater sector. Aside from OCWA participating in a host of water festivals and community events, there were conferences, tradeshows and industry workshops. The industry saw new legislation introduced in both wastewater (see Cover Story), and in energy use and planning (see page 3), and the province announced new Municipal Infrastructure Funding over the next three years (see page 3). (I wouldn't be true to my British roots if I didn't also mention the excitement of the London 2012 Olympic Games – which I was able to attend with my family!)

As we head into the cooler months, we look forward to our Municipal Infrastructure Funding Information Webinar on **September 28** (details on page 3), our OCWA Jets competing in the Operations Challenge at WEFTEC New Orleans (**September 29 - October 3**) and of course our second annual *OCWA Technology Showcase*, taking place this year on **December 5** at the Delta Meadowvale in Mississauga. After the success of last year's event, we are excited to once again bring together knowledgeable experts to provide their perspectives on innovation and technology in the water and wastewater sector.

New to the event this year is our fund-raising dinner on **December 4** – also at the Delta Meadowvale – for GlobalMedic, a Canadian charity that provides emergency relief and restores clean drinking water to those affected by natural disasters. We invite you to register for both the OCWA Technology Showcase and the Fundraising Dinner by visiting our information/registration webpage at www.ocwa.com/Technology_Showcase.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you there.

We hope you enjoy the content in this fall edition of *WaterLine*. As always, we welcome all feedback – questions, comments and suggestions – at waterline@ocwa.com.

News

Ontario launches municipal Infrastructure Strategy

Funding opportunity for communities in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin

The Ministry of the Environment has launched *The Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund*, which helps communities take actions to protect and restore Ontario's Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. They are inviting applications from community groups for activities such as cleaning up a shoreline, restoring a wetland and creating a riverside trail. Grants of up to $25,000 per project are available.

To learn more about this important new funding opportunity, please visit: www.ontario.ca/GreatLakesFund.

Partnerships/Collaboration

OCWA and Hydromantis to enhance OCWA's training program for wastewater operators

OCWA is pleased to announce our collaboration with Hydromantis Environmental Software Solutions, Inc. (Hydromantis), on enhancements to OCWA's training program for wastewater operators. OCWA will be incorporating, Hydromantis' SimuWorks™, an advanced training and development platform based on their industry leading GPS-X 6.1 simulation technology. Hydromantis is a leading global provider of water and wastewater simulation technology and expert modeling services.

OCWA's training simulator should be available starting early fall and will be incorporated into new and already existing training courses.

For further details, please visit www.ocwa.com/en/node/418.

New infrastructure funding available

Did you know that the Province of Ontario has recently announced $60 million in funding over the next three years for small municipalities and Local Services Boards (LSBs) through their Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative – Funding for Asset Management?

Partnering with OCWA

Let OCWA Engineering Services (OCWA ES) assist you in applying for available funding opportunities.

Information webinar

Please join us for an information webinar on Friday, September 28 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Simply visit the OCWA homepage at www.ocwa.com and follow these instructions:

Step 1: locate the "GoToMeeting" box on the homepage (under the photo)
Step 2: Enter the following meeting ID: 672208128
Step 3: Click on "Meet Now"

You will then be entered into the webinar. Let OCWA help you with your Asset Management Planning needs! For further information, please email infrastructure@ocwa.com

New *Green Energy Act* regulation means added reporting requirements for municipalities

Beginning July 1, 2013, Ontario municipalities will be required to produce annual reports detailing their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. This requirement is part of Ontario Regulation 397/11, under the province's *Green Energy Act*.

Under the new regulation, public agencies (including municipalities) will be required to report this information on an annual basis and post it online for access by the public. Then, the following year, beginning on July 1, 2014, municipalities will also be required to develop (and post) a five-year energy conservation plan.

In addition to impacting municipalities, the new regulation will mean new reporting requirements for organizations including municipal service boards, universities, colleges, school boards and hospitals.

The Ministry of the Environment is in the process of developing a template municipalities can use to report on their annual energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. In the meantime, the Ministry's website is advising affected organizations to familiarize themselves with the new reporting requirements, which can be found in the new regulation.

As Ontario municipalities prepare to comply with these stringent new reporting requirements, OCWA is offering its assistance. Water and wastewater treatment systems represent a typical municipality's largest source of energy demand. As such, the Agency's engineering experts have the knowledge and the experience to help identify energy conservation opportunities that can help lead to smarter and more efficient energy usage as well as increased savings.

As part of its service offering, OCWA will conduct an energy audit that provides a municipality with a detailed 'snapshot' of its current energy use status, helping to prepare the municipality to become fully compliant by the July 1, 2013 effective date.

The Agency can also conduct a detailed review of municipal systems to help identify energy saving projects, develop an implementation plan and payback period and identify any potential funding options available (including programs offered through the Ontario Power Authority).

To learn more please email energy@ocwa.com.

OCWA Technology Showcase

December 5, 2012 | Delta Meadowvale, Mississauga, ON

and Fundraising Dinner for GlobalMedic | December 4, 2012

We are excited to once again be introducing new and emerging technologies in the water and wastewater sector.

Some Highlights include:

New this Year
Join us for a fundraising dinner on December 4 in benefit of GlobalMedic.

Listen to knowledgeable experts – from Canada and abroad – as they provide interesting perspectives on innovation and technology.

Back by popular demand, the Pitch Session will return for its second year.

Proudly presented by:
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Centre for Alternative Wastewater Treatment
Fleming College

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Visit **www.ocwa.com/Technology_Showcase** for further details.

OCWA in Your Community

2012 Federated Health charities campaign

OCWA staff made a great contribution to this year's Federated Health Campaign, in support of 16 funded health charities across Ontario. The money raised helps charities continue the critical work they do for the pzeople and communities they serve. OCWA brought in a total of $16,788 in proceeds, an almost 20% increase from last year. Thank you to all those who helped plan, promote and execute the various fundraising activities that helped surpass the fundraising goal.

OCWA presents a cheque to the OPS Federated Health Charities Campaign. Left to right: Aziz M'Sallak, OCWA Campaign Co-Chair; Jane Pagel, President and CEO, OCWA; Gregory Caruso, OCWA Co-Chair; John Russell, Executive Director, OPS Federated Health Charities Campaign

Thunder Bay and Area DISASTER RELIEF

On August 10, OCWA President and CEO Jane Pagel presented a cheque in the amount of $1,780 to Mayor Keith Hobbs of the City of Thunder Bay. Thunder Bay and surrounding area was declared a disaster zone after heavy rainfall in late May produced floods that affected thousands of peoples' lives. It is estimated that between $15 and $20 million will be required to help those who are without insurance or are underinsured.

Donations were collected from OCWA employees across the province and matched equally by OCWA. Mayor Hobbs expressed sincere gratitude for the donation and informed the group that all funds collected will be matched by the Province on a two-to-one basis.

Reinforcing OCWA's commitment to Health & Safety

On September 5, 2012, OCWA President and CEO Jane Pagel officially signed the Senior Executive Health and Safety Leadership Charter, demonstrating the Executive Management Team's commitment to the health and safety of OCWA employees and the communities we serve. The signing was witnessed by Charter sponsors Elizabeth Mills, President and CEO of Workplace Safety and Prevention Services and Frank Saunders, VP Regulatory Oversight of Bruce Nuclear as well as our extended Executive Management Team.

The Charter, signed annually, provides a series of guiding principles endorsed by organizational senior executives and is intended to support continuous improvements to workplace health and safety. It is founded on the principle that effective leadership of health and safety is essential to the operation of a successful business.

The Charter's Five Principles are:

1. I subscribe to the principle that health and safety of my employees, contractors, visitors, and our surrounding community are an integral part of our business strategies, processes and performance measures.
2. I strive to provide leadership for ongoing health and safety improvements, internal capacity for my team to eliminate, minimize or control hazards in our workplace.
3. I agree to provide an environment that enables all employees to participate and work collaboratively in developing, promoting and improving health and safety at work.
4. I aim to extend health and safety efforts beyond the workplace, recognizing and supporting related initiatives within the community and our families.
5. I commit to lead and participate mindfully within my organization's health and safety framework, improving health and safety strategies, programming and performance.

As a signatory of the Charter, OCWA joins an esteemed list of Canadian organizations that are committed to the health and safety of their employees and the communities in which they operate, realize the vital link between a culture of health and safety and a successful organization, and are united in their vision and support for a safer, healthier, more prosperous Canada.

OCWA helps provide clean water to families in Somalia and Yemen

As part of our ongoing fundraising campaign for GlobalMedic – a Canadian charity that provides emergency relief to those affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies – a team of eight enthusiastic OCWA employees spent September 13 drilling holes, packing boxes and assembling numerous AquarPur water units to be shipped to families in Somalia and Yemen. After a long, tiring and very rewarding day, a total of 1,960 units were drilled and shipped – 1,260 to Somalia and 700 to Yemen. This represents 1,960 families or approximately 13,700 people who will receive clean water for the next 12 months.

To read more about GlobalMedic and the tremendous work they do, or to make a donation to this worthy cause, please visit their website, www.globalmedic.ca. **Please note:** If you are making a donation on behalf of OCWA's fundraising campaign, please select "Ontario Clean Water Agency" from the "Fund/ Designation" pull-down menu.

OCWA volunteers take a break from drilling and packing to pose at GlobalMedic's warehouse in Mississauga, Ontario

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